

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

Ohio State Engineer

Title: Back Matter

Issue Date: May-1934

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 17, no. 7 (May, 1934).

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/35150>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 17, no. 7 \(May, 1934\)](#)

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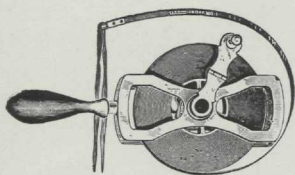
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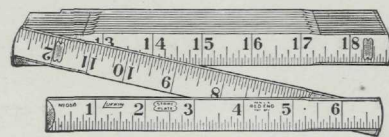
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G-E Campus News



STREAMLINED MOTOR

The new automobiles and airplanes have nothing, as far as streamlining goes, on an electric motor recently manufactured by General Electric. And undoubtedly many visitors to Langley Field, in Virginia, where the motor is now located, will think it some kind of miniature "Zeppelin." The motor is being used in investigations of the noises made by various types of propellers, the objective, of course, being to design a propeller in which noise is reduced to the practical minimum.

The motor, of the wound-rotor induction type, rated at 200 horsepower, is probably the first of its kind ever built. The propellers are mounted directly on the motor shaft, and can be run at speeds of between 1000 and 3600 rpm. The noises are picked up by a microphone and analyzed by means of special measuring devices.

The motor was designed by C. J. Koch, M.I.T., '24, and M. H. Wells, Syracuse, '02; and the control by A. Suksdorf, Washington State, '16.



LESS NOISE

Until recently, noise has been regarded as a necessary evil, something that has come quite naturally with higher speeds and more complex civilization. But someone noticed that noise gives us the "jitters"; rubber tires began to appear on milk wagons, and rubber cushions on ash cans. So, when General Electric was developing its air-conditioning units, noise became an important factor. Propeller-type fans, which had to run 24 hours a day to circulate air, were used, and they made too much noise for comfort. The Research Laboratory was given the job of doing something about it.

Research scientists examined the blades and found that on conventional fans all parts of the blade did not push air at the same rate of speed; in some cases, in fact, some parts pulled air back instead of pushing it forward. Blades on which every bit of surface pushed air at approximately the same speed were designed. And lo! not only was the efficiency of the fan tremendously increased, but the fan was quiet. Furthermore, a system was evolved whereby accurate fan-noise rating is possible. As a result, air-conditioning units which make no more noise than is present in a closed room on a quiet day were developed.

This quiet-fan development was done under the direction of K. D. McMahan, Oklahoma A. & M., '29, of the G-E Research Laboratory.



CHARLES PROTEUS STEINMETZ

"Guide, philosopher, and friend" to his generation of electrical engineers, he would have been 69 years old had he lived until April 9. From his 30 years of work with General Electric came the mathematical formulas involving alternating current, the discovery of the laws of hysteresis, and methods of protecting transmission lines from lightning damage.

These, to name a few, were basic aids in establishing present-day standards of electric service.

Yet, the heritage left by Steinmetz is the memory of not only a great scientist but of an essentially charming, kindly, helpful man of wide interests.

Out of the past, on the night of April 7, his voice spoke to radio's thousands—a voice that lives on a strip of film, evidence of our victory over time. Thus was inaugurated a three-day tribute to one who was loved for his human qualities as well as revered for his engineering achievements.

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GENERAL ELECTRIC